



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

026615  
HARRITY & SNYDER, LLP  
11240 WAPLES MILL ROAD  
SUITE 300  
FAIRFAX VA 22030

TM31/0802

| APPLICATION NO.       | FILING DATE | TOTAL CLAIMS              | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 09/004,527            | 01/09/98    | 029                       | LE, U 2171                  | 04/23/01    |
| First Named Applicant | PAGE,       | 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = | 0 Days.                     |             |

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR NODE RANKING IN A LINKED DATABASE

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO. | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO. | APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | FEE DUE   | DATE DUE |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| 2 S96-213         | 707-500.000    | F39       | UTILITY     | NO           | \$1240.00 | 07/23/01 |

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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**II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.**

**III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.**

***IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.***

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**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

TM31/0423

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| APPLICATION NO.       | FILING DATE | TOTAL CLAIMS                     | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 09/004,827            | 01/09/98    | 008                              | LE, U<br>2171               | 04/23/01    |
| First Named Applicant | PAGE,       | 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days |                             |             |

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD FOR NODE RANKING IN A LINKED DATABASE

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO. | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO. | APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | FEE DUE  | DATE DUE |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| 2 896-213         | 707-500.000    | F39       | UTILITY     | YES          | \$620.00 | 07/23/01 |

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# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/004,827

App. Art(s)

Page

Examiner

Uyen Le

Group Art Unit

2171



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 6 February 2001.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18-25, 28, 36-55 renumbered as 1-29.

☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 6.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

**THOMAS BLACK**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Art Unit: 2171

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 18-25, 28, 36-55 renumbered as 1-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest

- Assigning a score to linked documents based on scores of the linking documents and processing the linked documents according to their scores as recited in claims 18, 25;
- Ranking a plurality of documents by generating an initial estimate of a rank for each of the linked documents, updating the estimate using the ranks of the linking documents and processing the linked documents according to the updated ranks as recited in claim 28;
- Automatically performing a random traversal of a plurality of linked documents, for each document that is traversed, assigning a rank to the linked document that is dependent on the number of times the linked document has been traversed and processing the plurality of linked documents according to their ranks as recited in claims 36.

Claims 44, 45 correspond to a computer program product for method claim 18, thus are allowable for the same reasons stated in claim 18 above. Claims 19-24, 37-43, 46-55 being further limiting and definite are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kirsch et al (US 5,920,854) teach a real-time document collection search engine with phrase indexing.

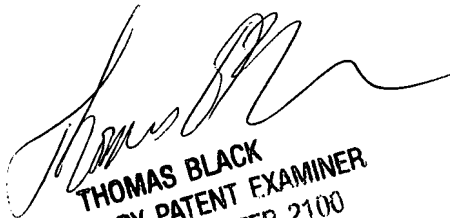
Spencer (US 5,915,249) teaches a system and method for accelerated query evaluation of very large full-text databases.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen T Le whose telephone number is 703-305-4134. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 305-9707. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 308-9051 for all communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-9000.

UL  
April 22, 2001

  
**THOMAS BLACK**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100